



The Blue Coat School Board of Trustees



Chair of Trustees John Grace



John joined the Board of Trustees in July of 2019, having spent his formative years firstly as a Police Officer in Merseyside, and since 2003 occupying a range of senior HR positions in different organisations. He recently left Royal Mail, having been a senior professional leading Royal Mail HR operations across the south of England. John has experience of working in Northern Ireland and also in Hungary for a time, and has more recently been able to pass on his knowledge to under- and postgraduate students at both Liverpool John Moores and Liverpool Universities.

Although having retired from full time work in March 2019, he not only brings years of experience in implementing people strategies in demanding operational settings, but also in developing the strategic approach to the people agenda in support of senior leadership teams. John is a Chartered Fellow of the CIPD and holds a Masters' degree in strategic HR.

Vice Chair of Trustees Siwan Smith



As Knowledge Transfer Manager for Diversity & Inclusion at KTN, Siwan works to ensure diverse innovators have access to the support and funding opportunities they need throughout the UK's innovation eco-system. Leading on KTN's activities for Innovate UK's Women in Innovation and Young Innovators programmes, Siwan has supported thousands of innovators through workshops, webinars and 1:1 support.

A graduate from the University of Chester, Siwan has worked across several technology sector areas and has extensive expertise in marketing, PR and events management. Born and raised in Liverpool, Siwan is a trained facilitator and mentor as part of LMF Networks global mentoring programme. She counts show management for the Liverpool Comedy Festival and volunteering for Manchester Pride amongst her favourite memories.

In her spare time Siwan enjoys travelling, going to the theatre and baking.

Patrick Adamson



Patrick is a Deputy Headteacher at a Grammar School in Wirral. He originally studied Mathematics and Computer Science before working as a Software Engineer on the Seawolf and Rapier anti-aircraft missile systems and on the sonar system for the Trident submarines. He became a Mathematics teacher in his early thirties and has worked in a variety of schools in the Northwest. He became Head of Mathematics at Whitby High School in Ellesmere Port, and Assistant Headteacher at Christleton High School in Chester, where he led the school's specialism in Maths, Business and Computing. Here, he created, amongst other things, an interactive Maths trail in the school grounds, which included a giant Tower of Hanoi puzzle and a walkable recreation of the Konigsberg Bridge problem.

Patrick completed a Masters' degree in Educational Leadership and Management at the University of Liverpool before joining his current school. Patrick's passion in education has been to develop schools that inspire and challenge young people to grow and learn in a caring environment, which develops independent learning through a wide range of enriching experiences both in and out of the classroom. As well as Maths Patrick loves climbing Munros and listening to BBC 6 Music, both of which feature regularly in his assemblies.

Ken Graham



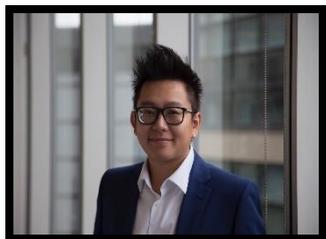
Ken joined the Trustee Board in December 2019. He is a graduate of the University of Liverpool and holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Librarianship from (former) Liverpool Polytechnic. Retired in 2013, Ken spent the majority of his career working in the public and higher education sectors, initially working for Liverpool City Libraries and moving to Liverpool Polytechnic, which then became Liverpool John Moores University.

Ken worked in a variety of roles within the University's Library & Student Support Services Department, including Business Librarian, Learning Resource Centre Manager and Head of Staff Services. In each role, the focus was to deliver innovative and high quality services to staff and students.

As part of the University's outreach programme Ken worked several years for Liverpool Compact Education & Business Partnership, while regularly going into schools across the city to provide students with practical help and guidance for making job applications and handling job interviews. At times challenging, this work was always interesting, as there was a very real sense of satisfaction gained from helping young students to develop these important life skills and enable them to achieve their full potential.

Ken is currently working for the School's Development Team as a volunteer on the 'Blue Coat for All' project, supervising a small team of volunteers developing the School's archive. He also volunteers as a "befriender" for the local charity Woolton Community Life, which aims to combat loneliness in the community. Ken has a daughter who attended The Blue Coat for her Sixth Form studies.

Johnathan Han



Jonathan is an Old Blue of the class of 2006.

With a background in civil & structural engineering, his career has taken him across the UK and abroad, before recently settling back in Liverpool.

He is a Chartered Civil Engineer with extensive cross-functional experience in business strategy, planning, commercial and project management - with expertise in technological innovation and data analytics.

After completing an MBA in Manchester several years ago, he is currently advising major UK infrastructure clients across various sectors as a management consultant within KPMG's Infrastructure Advisory Group.

In his spare time (in between juggling parenting duties), Jonathan continues to be an advocate in promoting the civil engineering industry and STEM with the Institution of Civil Engineers in order to help facilitate, mentor and encourage the next generation of young prosperous engineers.

Simone Krüger Bridge



Simone joined The Blue Coat School's Board of Trustees in 2022. She is a senior academic working in Higher Education for over twenty years with a passion for academic excellence in teaching and learning, research and writing.

Qualified in business and banking operations in the early 1990s, Simone moved to Liverpool in her 20s and has since gained academic qualifications of the highest levels from prestigious UK universities. Since 2007, she embarked on a successful academic career at Liverpool John Moores University where she has worked as a Senior Lecturer, Programme Leader, Reader and Committee Chair, building a wide-ranging track record as an academic, writer, editor, educational leader, guest speaker and in executive service roles for learned societies and organisations.

Simone strongly believes in civic citizenship and is passionate to give something back to the local community, while making a real difference to academically gifted children and young people, including those from BAME and other disadvantaged backgrounds, and to support them and The Blue Coat School to achieve their very best potential in life and to face the critical challenges of the 21st century.

Robert Lee



Rob is an Old Blue of the class of 1998.

After graduating from Leeds University with a degree in Maths with Finance, Rob has held a number of senior strategic roles in business and has a wide range of skills, focused primarily on finance and capital allocation but including a broader skill set from general management, people manager and project management roles. He currently heads up the Investor Relations function at United Utilities working closely with all levels of the business right up to Board level and with key external stakeholders such as investors and analysts. He is also responsible for delivering a multi £million transformation project, driving significant change throughout the organisation.

In his spare time, Rob is a founding member of a local junior football club, coaching two teams at U6 and U8 level that his two oldest sons currently play for.

Sam Myers



Sam is an Old Blue, having been a student at The Blue Coat School from 1993-2000.

After achieving his degree in Law and French from the University of Leicester, he went on to pursue a career in financial services.

For the last 14 years, Sam has worked as an Investment Manager for Tilney, working his way up to Director level in 2018. He manages money on behalf of a wide range of private clients and trusts and regularly attends trustee meetings in a professional capacity.

Sam reengaged with The Blue Coat School a few years ago and often supports the school with his time in various capacities such as careers events and prize giving.